

Washington, D. C. 20505

12 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

SUBJECT: FY 1979 National Foreign Intelligence Program
(NFIP) Budget Meetings

1. (S) In accordance with the request in your memorandum of 10 November 1977, attached is a copy of Harold Brown's letter to me on the FY 1979 NFIP budget. Harold has since told me that his letter is, in effect, overtaken by events and that he is going to send me another and more specific letter once I have indicated to OMB the budget level that I will request from the President. You did ask for my views on Harold's conclusions, however. Basically, we are in general agreement, but the letter is not specific enough in the budgetary sense to be the basis for any decisions on priorities.

2. (S) Please note that my budget submission deadline is 15 November 1977 before the scheduled PRC meeting on 18 November. As you may well appreciate, the FY 1979 program was reviewed by the PRC in July and certain decisions made which have resulted in the NFIP program manager's present budget recommendations. As the new PRC now begins to focus on defining and prioritizing the substantive intelligence requirements and identifies emerging or changing needs, I will be able to respond by adjusting program budgets not only for FY 1979 but for FY 1978 as well. I am anxious that the PRC commence with the "twenty questions" issue prior to discussing the specific budget issues such as imagery mix, etc. I look on the "twenty questions" meeting as the opportunity to validate the consumer requirements which were the prerequisites in the budget preparation.

3. (S) Incidentally, I requested ACDA and OSD to participate in the NFIP budget deliberations in addition to the normal State, Treasury, Defense, etc., membership. All have been afforded opportunities to voice oral and written opinions--most have.

4. (S) The budget level I am requesting is in the neighborhood of [redacted] In defending the NFIP budget to the President, I will find the deliberations of the PRC and the concerns of the principal consumers most helpful.



STANSFIELD TURNER

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